

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine, comprising a rocker arm having a valve abutment at one end thereof abutting against an engine valve and a cam abutment at the other end contacting with a valve-operating cam, and a pair of link arms each of which is supported at one end thereof on an engine body for swinging movement about an axis parallel to a rotational axis for said valve-operating cam and connected at the other end directly to the other end of said rocker arm for relative turning movement about an axis parallel to said rotational axis, said one end of at least any one of said link arms being swingably supported on said engine body for continuous movement within a plane perpendicular to the rotational axis for said valve-operating cam, and wherein said rocker arm is formed to be gradually thicker from the valve abutment at the one end toward the cam abutment at the other end, and wherein the other ends of the pair of link arms connected to the other end of the rocker arm are positioned on a line in an input direction from the valve-operating cam to the rocker arm.

2. (Previously Presented) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, wherein said link arms are connected at the other ends in a row and relatively turnably to the other end of said rocker arm.

3. (Previously Presented) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 1 or 2, wherein one of said link arms closer to said valve-operating cam is swingably supported at one end thereof on the engine body

in a fixed position, and one of said link arms farther from said valve-operating cam is swingably supported at one end thereof movable on the engine body.

4. (Currently Amended) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine ~~according to claim 1 or 2~~, comprising a rocker arm having a valve abutment at one end thereof abutting against an engine valve and a cam abutment at the other end contacting with a valve-operating cam, and a pair of link arms each of which is supported at one end thereof on an engine body for swinging movement about an axis parallel to a rotational axis for said valve-operating cam and connected at the other end directly to the other end of said rocker arm for relative turning movement about an axis parallel to said rotational axis, said one end of at least any one of said link arms being swingably supported on said engine body for continuous movement within a plane perpendicular to the rotational axis for said valve-operating cam, and wherein the roller as said cam abutment is turnably supported on a cylindrical support tube mounted on said rocker arm and having an axis parallel to said rotational axis for said valve-operating cam, and one of said link arms is connected at the other end to said support tube.

5. (Previously Presented) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 4, wherein the other of said link arms is connected at the other end to said rocker arm above the roller through a connecting shaft parallel to the roller, and the support tube and the connecting shaft are disposed to extend in an input direction from the valve-operating cam to said rocker arm.

6. (Currently Amended) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine ~~according to claim 3~~, comprising a rocker arm having a valve abutment at one end thereof abutting against an engine valve and a cam abutment at the other end contacting with a valve-operating cam, and a pair of link arms each of which is supported at one end thereof on an engine body for swinging movement about an axis parallel to a rotational axis for said valve-operating cam and connected at the other end directly to the other end of said rocker arm for relative turning movement about an axis parallel to said rotational axis, said one end of at least any one of said link arms being swingably supported on said engine body for continuous movement within a plane perpendicular to the rotational axis for said valve-operating cam, wherein one of said link arms closer to said valve-operating cam is swingably supported at one end thereof on the engine body in a fixed position, and one of said link arms farther from said valve-operating cam is swingably supported at one end thereof movable on the engine body, and wherein the roller as said cam abutment is turnably supported on a cylindrical support tube mounted on said rocker arm and having an axis parallel to a rotational axis for said valve-operating cam, and one of said link arms closer to said valve-operating cam is connected at the other end to said support tube.

7. (Previously Presented) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 6, wherein one of said link arms farther from said valve-operating cam is connected at the other end to said rocker arm above the roller through a connecting shaft parallel to the roller, and the support tube and the connecting shaft are disposed to extend in an input direction from the valve-operating cam to said rocker arm.

8. (Previously Presented) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 4, wherein the other of said link arms is connected at the other end to said rocker arm below said roller through a connecting shaft parallel to said roller, and the support tube and the connecting shaft are disposed to extend in an input direction from the valve-operating cam to said rocker arm.

9. (Previously Presented) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 6, wherein one of said link arms farther from said valve-operating cam is connected at the other end to said rocker arm below said roller through a connecting shaft parallel to said roller, and the support tube and the connecting shaft are disposed to extend in an input direction from the valve-operating cam to said rocker arm.

10. (Previously Presented) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 1 or 2, wherein one ends of said link arms are disposed on a side opposite from said engine valve with respect to the other ends of said link arms.

11. (Previously Presented) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 3, wherein one ends of said link arms are disposed on a side opposite from said engine valve with respect to the other ends of said link arms.

12. (Previously Presented) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 4, wherein one ends of said link arms are

disposed on a side opposite from said engine valve with respect to the other ends of said link arms.

13. (Previously Presented) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 5, wherein one ends of said link arms are disposed on a side opposite from said engine valve with respect to the other ends of said link arms.

14. (Previously Presented) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 6, wherein one ends of said link arms are disposed on a side opposite from said engine valve (6) with respect to the other ends of said link arms.

15. (Previously Presented) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 7, wherein one ends of said link arms are disposed on a side opposite from said engine valve with respect to the other ends of said link arms.

16. (Previously Presented) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 8, wherein one ends of said link arms are disposed on a side opposite from said engine valve with respect to the other ends of said link arms.

17. (Previously Presented) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 9, wherein one ends of said link arms are

disposed on a side opposite from said engine valve with respect to the other ends of said link arms.

18. (New) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion, comprising a rocker arm having a valve abutment at one end thereof abutting against an engine valve and a cam abutment at the other end contacting with a valve-operating cam, and a pair of link arms each of which is supported at one end thereof on an engine body for swinging movement about an axis parallel to a rotational axis for said valve-operating cam and connected at the other end directly to the other end of said rocker arm for relative turning movement about an axis parallel to said rotational axis, said one end of at least any one of said link arms being swingably supported on said engine body for continuous movement within a plane perpendicular to the rotational axis for said valve-operating cam, wherein said link arms are connected at the other ends in a row and relatively turnably to the other end of said rocker arm, and wherein the roller as said cam abutment is turnably supported on a cylindrical support tube mounted on said rocker arm and having an axis parallel to said rotational axis for said valve-operating cam, and one of said link arms is connected at the other end to said support tube.

19. (New) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 18, wherein the other of said link arms is connected at the other end to said rocker arm above the roller through a connecting shaft parallel to the roller, and the support tube and the connecting shaft are disposed to extend in an input direction from the valve-operating cam to said rocker arm.

20. (New) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 18, wherein the other of said link arms is connected at the other end to said rocker arm below said roller through a connecting shaft parallel to said roller, and the support tube and the connecting shaft are disposed to extend in an input direction from the valve-operating cam to said rocker arm.

21. (New) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 18, wherein one ends of said link arms are disposed on a side opposite from said engine valve with respect to the other ends of said link arms.

22. (New) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 19, wherein one ends of said link arms are disposed on a side opposite from said engine valve with respect to the other ends of said link arms.

23. (New) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 20, wherein one ends of said link arms are disposed on a side opposite from said engine valve with respect to the other ends of said link arms.

24. (New) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine, comprising a rocker arm having a valve abutment at one end thereof abutting against an engine valve and a cam abutment at the other end contacting with a valve-operating cam, and a pair of link arms each of which is supported at one end thereof on an engine body for swinging movement about an axis parallel to a rotational axis for said valve-operating cam and connected at the other end directly to the other end of said rocker arm for relative turning movement about an axis parallel to said rotational axis, said one end of at least any one of said link arms being swingably supported on said engine body

for continuous movement within a plane perpendicular to the rotational axis for said valve-operating cam, wherein said link arms are connected at the other ends in a row and relatively turnably to the other end of said rocker arm, wherein one of said link arms closer to said valve-operating cam is swingably supported at one end thereof on the engine body in a fixed position, and one of said link arms farther from said valve-operating cam is swingably supported at one end thereof movable on the engine body, and wherein the roller as said cam abutment is turnably supported on a cylindrical support tube mounted on said rocker arm and having an axis parallel to a rotational axis for said valve-operating cam, and one of said link arms closer to said valve-operating cam is connected at the other end to said support tube.

25. (New) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 24, wherein one of said link arms farther from said valve-operating cam is connected at the other end to said rocker arm above the roller through a connecting shaft parallel to the roller, and the support tube and the connecting shaft are disposed to extend in an input direction from the valve-operating cam to said rocker arm.

26. (New) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 24, wherein one of said link arms farther from said valve-operating cam is connected at the other end to said rocker arm below said roller through a connecting shaft parallel to said roller, and the support tube and the connecting shaft are disposed to extend in an input direction from the valve-operating cam to said rocker arm.

27. (New) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 25, wherein one ends of said link arms are disposed on a side opposite from said engine valve with respect to the other ends of said link arms.

29. (New) A valve-operating system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 26, wherein one ends of said link arms are disposed on a side opposite from said engine valve with respect to the other ends of said link arms.